

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04499 191646Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08
AGR-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
ICA-11 /075 W
-----126766 191759Z /53

R 191542Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6065
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASH DC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
AMCONSUL OPORTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4499

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJ: CDS TO FORCE ISSUE OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER

REF: LISBON A-95 OF MAY 12, 1978

SUMMARY: CDS HAS DECIDED TO FORCE THE REPLACEMENT OF
AGRICULTURE MINISTER SAIAS. THE SOCIALISTS RECOGNIZE
SAIAS MUST GO BUT MAY SEEK TO DELAY HIS REPLACEMENT.
PS-CDS RELATIONSHIPS ARE GOOD IN OTHER AREAS, AND
THE PS-CDS COALITION IS NOT IN DANGER. END SUMMARY.

1. CDS ULTIMATUM ON AGRICULTURE MINISTER:
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CDS VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA TOLD TREASURY REPRESENTATIVE
SYVRUD AND EMBOFF JUNE 15 THAT CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO
AMARAL WAS INSISTING THE SAME DAY THAT PRIME MINISTER SOARES
REPLACE AGRICULTURE MINISTER LUIS SAIAS. DA COSTA CITED
SAIAS'S INCOMPETENCE AND FAILURE TO PLAN FOR THE VITAL
AGRARIAN SECTOR."

2. LACK OF DECISIVENESS; DA COSTA ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT LACKED THE POLITICAL WILL TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS. HE BLAMED MARIO SOARES FOR MUCH OF THE PROBLEM AND SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT EANES COULD HELP BY INSISTING ON FULFILLMENT OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. COMMENT: THE CDS HAS A LONG-STANDING GRIEVANCE AGAINST THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER. THE CDS AGRICULTURE SPOKESMAN CARVALHO CARDOSO ON JUNE 8 RESIGNED IN PROTEST. THE SOCIALISTS ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT SAIAS MUST GO EVENTUALLY (REFAIR). THE PS-CDS DEBATE CAN BE EXPECTED TO CENTER ON WHEN TO DUMP SAIAS. DA COSTA EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH OTHER AREAS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE, PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY, AND DID NOT SUGGEST THAT THE CDS-PS COALITION WAS IN DANGER.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: AGRICULTURE, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS), POLITICAL PARTIES, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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